

Appln No. 10/568,567
Amdt date April 16, 2008
Reply to Office action of January 16, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a Virtual Private Network (VPN) service, comprising the steps of:

A. ~~after receiving a call request for a VPN service from a user terminal, initiating a VPN service logic, and determining whether a Service Control Point (SCP) judging whether the user terminal has applied customized for a prepaid service by a Service Control Point (SCP), if so, executing step B, otherwise directly providing a traditional VPN service for the user terminal; and~~

B. providing, by the VPN service logic, the VPN service to the user terminal, charging the VPN service, and initiating a VPN service logic, invoking a prepaid service logic by the VPN service logic, and for deducting, according to a result of the charging, fee from a prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal while providing the VPN service to the user terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising: before initiating the VPN service logic, wherein the step of A comprises: implementing a VPN service authentication for the user terminal, if the user terminal passes the VPN service authentication, executing the step of initiating of the VPN service logic, judging whether the user terminal has applied for the prepaid service, otherwise returning a VPN service authentication failure message to the user terminal.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of A is followed by a further step of implementing prepaid service authentication for the user terminal, if

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the user terminal passes the prepaid service authentication, executing step B, otherwise returning a prepaid service authentication failure message to the user terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of implementing prepaid service authentication for the user terminal is followed by a further step of presetting an authentication interface for the prepaid service, wherein the step of implementing the prepaid service authentication for the user terminal is implemented by invoking the authentication interface set for the prepaid service.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of implementing the prepaid service authentication for the user terminal comprises: judging whether the user terminal's corresponding prepaid account is valid and judging whether there is sufficient balance in the prepaid account.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-applying interface for the prepaid service, before providing the VPN service for the user terminal.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of B comprises:

the VPN service logic invoking the fee-applying interface, the prepaid service logic applying for fees and notifying the VPN service logic of a fee application result; and

the VPN service logic judging whether the fee is obtained according to the fee application result, if so, providing the VPN service for the user terminal according to the fee application result, ~~otherwise ending the current flow directly.~~

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-deducting interface for the prepaid service.

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17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~step of deducting fee from a prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal while providing the VPN service to the user terminal~~ operation in step B comprises:

~~when the call is finished,~~ the VPN service logic invoking the fee-deducting interface and sending a fee-deducting request to the prepaid service logic, the prepaid service logic deducting a the result of the charging certain amount of fee from the applied fee after receiving the request.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-returning interface for the prepaid service.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, after the deducting operation in step B, the method further comprising: the VPN service logic judging whether there is remaining fee in the applied fee, if so, invoking the fee-returning interface and returning the remaining fee to the prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal ~~wherein the step of deducting fee from a prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal while providing the VPN service to the user terminal is followed by the step of: the VPN service logic judging whether there is remaining fee in the applied fee, if so, invoking the fee-returning interface and returning the remaining fee to the prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal.~~